

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Maui's Volunteer Newsletter



The Life of the Ocean

By Bo Petty

Volunteers Jeep Dunning, Larry Boysen and Judy Lauridsen staffed an outreach table under the Banyan Tree in Old Lahaina. Lahaina Town Action Committee held their Ke Ola O Ke Kai, "The Life of the Ocean" event Saturday, September 20th to celebrate the ocean and ocean art themes by inviting ocean conservation organizations and community artists to share at the public occasion. Midway through the day, Jeep stood on stage and shared with visitors, information about our sanctuary and was soon followed by Elvis impersonator and Lahaina showman, Darren Lee, who then belted out some famous Elvis songs.



This photo of "Elvis" by volunteer, Judy Lauridsen, gives a nice view of the audience that Jeep spoke to, the courthouse, and banyan tree branches.

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and a special thank you
to this month's contributors

NMS NEWS!

Question: Which place recently expanded by almost ten times and now protects an additional 100 known and suspected historic shipwreck sites?

Answer: Congratulations to **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary**! Last week, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries released a final rule and environmental impact statement expanding the boundaries of the sanctuary from 448 square miles to 4,300 square miles. The expansion of the sanctuary, which is located in Lake Huron, now protects the additional 100 known and suspected historic shipwreck sites.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Story and photos by Flo Bahr



The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force met on Maui the week of September 8. The group is comprised of 15 members that represent the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and delegates from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern

Mariana Islands, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Members of the group were hosted to several talks and a delicious dinner at our Kihei Sanctuary site. Many of our volunteers assisted by acting as docents in the visitor center, helping with the dinner and guiding the guests. The function was well attended by about a hundred guests that came from far and wide from the groups mentioned above.

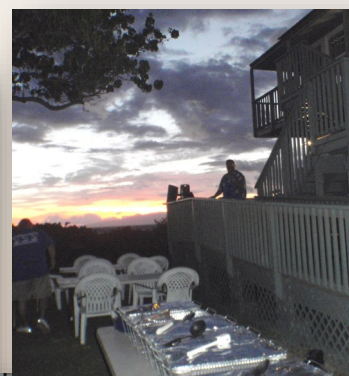
The evening started off with an overview of Kō'ie'ie fishpond which was given by Kimokeo Kapahulehua, president of the Fishpond Association of Maui. Kimokeo gave a talk about the cultural history of the fishpond and its great value and told about the work being done today to revitalize it for future generations.

It was a beautiful Maui evening as the group gathered on the lawn of the Kihei Sanctuary site. Ka`au Abraham, our Maui Island Coordinator, gave the opening oli and greeted the guests.

It was then time for a wonderful dinner. We enjoyed the plentiful local food, the beverages and a yummy cake and haupia for dessert.

Guest speaker, Hokuala Johnson, of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, gave a very interesting presentation about the Monument. We learned in pictures, slides and Google Street View what it looks like up there and what is going on. It was a fun and informative evening.

Mahalo to the [U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Education and Outreach Working Group](#) for providing this opportunity!



SANCTUARY WHALE TALES



CALL TO ACTION



Bleached coral (on right) next to a normal colony (left) at Lanikai, Oahu on 9/23/2014 Photo credit: C. Hunter

Please check nearby coral reefs and report any signs of bleaching.

Make an online report:
www.eorhawaii.org

Send photos to:
rrcpcoordinator@gmail.com

Multiple reports of coral bleaching have recently been received through the Eyes of the Reef Network. 'Bleaching' is a coral stress response, in this case likely due to high temperatures. It describes the loss of color from coral tissue, which makes the coral appear white. Corals can recover from bleaching if temperatures return to a normal range. The peak bleaching season for the Pacific is July—September.

More examples of coral bleaching:



Want to know more about the EOR Network or coral bleaching?

www.eorhawaii.org

[www.Facebook.com/eyesofthereef](https://www.facebook.com/eyesofthereef)

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Threats to Whales:

Ship Strikes

By Ed Lyman

Ship strike threat is a concern in Alaska, as it is here in Hawaii waters. In July 2001 a cruise ship in Glacier Bay, Alaska struck an adult female humpback whale named "Snow". Her skeleton, the second largest rearticulated humpback whale skeleton in the world, now sits at park headquarters in Glacier Bay, Alaska as a reminder of the threat.



On July 1, 13 years later, an adult, female humpback whale, was reported dead in Chatham Strait, AK. It was determined that she had a broken left mandible and had died as a result of a ship strike. Some researchers knew her as Max, or Aequorea (a green fluorescent protein from a jellyfish in the Pacific NW), or simply #539. She had a long sighting history in Southeast Alaska, and like Snow, was first seen back in 1975 in Glacier Bay. Over the years, Max has had at least 5 calves and had 3 grand-calves. Scientists studying humpback whales learned a great deal from both Snow and Max over the years. With their deaths we will glean a little more information, but we will never see their majestic blows and raised flukes again. More than 9 confirmed reports of whale-vessel contacts have been reported thus far this season in Alaska.



With a recovering population, we are seeing more and more humpback whales every year. This is great news, but it will also likely equate to greater numbers of incidences involving contact with vessels and entanglement in gear. It is a reminder for both the animal's and our own sake that we need to remain respectful and vigilant as we share the world's oceans with these magnificent animals.

Notice how this photo shows the baleen in the whale's mouth. The baleen looks like a brush and acts as a strainer to let the water out and keep the fish in when the whale is feeding.

Photos by Ed Lyman.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

South Maui Marine Turtle Stranding Network

By Tommy Cutt



Photo by Tommy Cutt.

Do you love sea turtles? Do you want to help save sea turtles on Maui? Volunteer with the **HIHWNMS South Maui Marine Turtle Stranding Network!**

The South Maui Marine Turtle Stranding Network is comprised of a team of specially trained, on-call volunteers who respond to reports of stranded or injured sea turtles along South Maui beaches (from Ma'alaea Harbor to La Perouse Bay).

What is a stranded turtle?

When a sea turtle becomes sick or injured, they often times are washed ashore by waves and tides and become "stranded." By definition, a stranded marine turtle is any injured, sick, dead, or abnormally acting sea turtle on shore.

Is volunteering with the stranding network for me?

The South Maui Marine Turtle Stranding Network works in collaboration with the Marine Turtle Research Program at the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Science Center in Honolulu. Volunteering with the stranding network can be both an educational and rewarding experience. Volunteers participating in the program receive specialized training and are able to take an active, hands-on role in marine turtle conservation through stranding response and educating the general public. Volunteers are on-call for two week periods at a time, during which they're responsible for responding to calls regarding stranded marine turtles.

How do I get involved?

Volunteers interested in participating in the South Maui Marine Turtle Stranding Network are required to attend an initial sea turtle stranding response class, then read and understand the marine turtle response handbook.

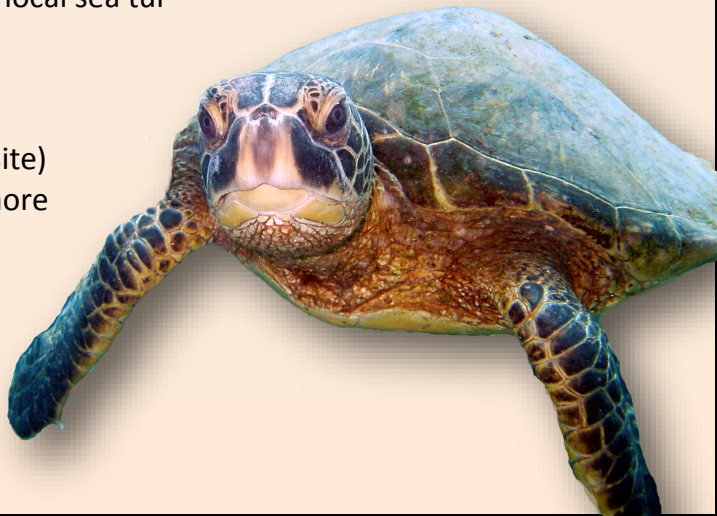
The two-hour training course provides up-to-date technical information about how to respond to stranded marine turtles, Maui's local sea turtle population, current threats and conservation efforts.

Stranding Response Course Schedule

Wednesday, October 22, 4:00 pm

Location: Hale 'Amui Conference Room (Kihei Sanctuary site)

Please contact Tommy Cutt at tcutt@marinelife.org for more information or questions.



Hawaiian green sea turtle in the Hawaiian Islands
Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

Photo courtesy of Claire Fackler, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Volunteer Opportunities

Visitor Center –

Shifts are: Monday - Friday, 10 - 1 and 1 - 4. We have spots open for **all** shifts as we are working to schedule two volunteers per shift. Contact Tommy Cutt at tcutt@marinelife.org

Outreach –

Contact Jeep Dunning at mauijeep@gmail.com for all outreach opportunities.

Saturday, October 11 - *Maui Children and Youth Day* in Kihei, from 3 - 8 pm. Shifts are from 2:30 - 5:30 pm and 5:30 - 8:30 pm to allow for setup and breakdown. We are looking for 3 - 4 volunteers per shift as this is a fun, fast-paced, activity-oriented event with many families and lots of energy. It is focused around keiki activities.

School Group Assistants

Thursday, Oct. 9, 8AM-Noon; Friday, Oct.10, 10:30-Noon; Monday, Oct. 20-, 9-11 am; Saturday, Oct. 18 to assist at a Teacher Training workshop. (adults, not kids as above). Contact Ka`au Abraham at Kaaau.Abraham@noaa.gov to assist with any of these groups. You will be under the direction of a trained leader and will enjoy learning as they do.

We will kick off **Whale Talks** at *Whalers Village Museum* beginning October 1st. Talks are Mon, Wed, Fri at 11 am.

If any volunteer wishes to become a sanctuary whale talker, please contact Jeep or Raul.

Whale Talks in Lahaina – Contact Raul Paiz at rep4908@yahoo.com

Whale Talks in Kihei – Contact Jeep Dunning at mauijeep@gmail.com

Wednesday, October 22 – *Marine Turtle Talk and Turtle Response Orientation*, at Kihei Sanctuary Site, from 4 - 5 pm. Public and interested volunteers welcome. Help save Maui Sea Turtles! Talk story, learn facts, threats, conservation efforts, and volunteer opportunities to become actively involved in efforts on the island.

Here is an interesting number. The total **reported** volunteer hours for all the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary up until September 11, 2014 is **18,632**.

A Giant “Thank You” to All of You!

Photo by Jennifer Shoemaker

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

PacIOOS Deploys Water Quality Sensors in Kihei and Kahului

The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) recently deployed two water quality sensors at Kalama Beach Park and the Kahului Harbor. Kimokeo Kapahulehua blessed the Kalama Beach Park sensor prior to its placement offshore.

The Kahului sensor is actually a redeployment made possible through a partnership between Kahului Harbor state officials and the NOAA Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services. Water Quality Consulting, Inc., and members of Wailuku Community Managed Makai Area will provide routine maintenance, monitoring and service of the Kihei and Kahului sensors, respectively.

The sensors are two of many PacIOOS Water Quality Platforms throughout the Pacific. These nearshore sensors provide monthly data on water temperature, turbidity (cloudiness), salinity, depth, pH, dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll concentration. Data for the Kihei and Kahului water quality sensors will be placed on the PacIOOS and PacIOOS Voyager websites, both found at <http://oos.soest.hawaii.edu/pacioos/>.



Photo by Rick Long.

Sharks, Oh My! PacIOOS Tracks Maui Nui Ocean Denizens

By Nancy Daschbach

PacIOOS has been tracking tiger shark movement in the Maui Nui waters for almost a year. The research is spearheaded by the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, with assistance from the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

With the information collected, scientists and managers hope to be able to make better management decisions about tiger sharks, particularly when they intersect with humans in the water. New sharks continue to be tagged and added to the growing database, making a total number of 16 animals. The overwhelming majority are females (13 vs. 3 males).

The website tracking data provide a fascinating picture of tiger shark movements in our Maui Nui region. To learn more and follow the 14 sharks, go to <http://oos.soest.hawaii.edu/pacioos/index.php> and find the tiger shark study under "Projects".

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

South Maui

*Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary
726 South Kihei Road,
Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 879-2818*

West Maui

*Whalers Village Shopping Center
Whalers Museum
2435 Ka'anapali Pkwy
Lahaina, HI 96761 (661-4567)* *Old Lahaina Courthouse
Banyan Tree Park
Wharf Street
Lahaina, 96761 (661-3262)*

October 2014

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

*Oct. 22-Turtle Talk and Turtle Response Team Orientation. Public and interested volunteers are welcome.

*Oct. 29-Sanctuary Lecture Series presents: Polynesian Voyaging at Hale `Amui (Kihei Conference Building) from 6-8PM The public is invited.

1
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

2

45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Kihei
(School Group)

3
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

4
Blue`Aina

8
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

9
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Kihei
(School Group)

10
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum
(School Group)

11
Maui Children
and Youth Day
Kihei 3-8 PM

15 45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum
**VOLUNTEER
MEETING**

16
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Kihei

17
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

18
(Teacher
Training Group)

22
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum
* Turtle Talk
4 PM Kihei

23
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Kihei

24
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

25
(Teacher
Training Group)

29
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

* Lecture Series

30
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Kihei

31
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

6
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

13
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

20
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum
(School Group)

27
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Whalers Village
Museum

7
Council Mtg
9:30 AM Kihei
45 Ton Whale Talk
11 AM
Kihei

14
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Kihei

21
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Kihei

28
45 Ton Whale
Talk 11 AM
Kihei

5

12

19
Blue`Aina

26